

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Walter McNutt, on February 14, 2007
at 3:30 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 401, 1/30/2007; HB 460,
2/2/2007; HJ 15, 1/29/2007; HJ 31,
2/12/2007
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 460

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:54 Rep. Jim Keane (D), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 460, Revise mining laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:44 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah33a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah33a02\)](#)

00:06:33 Leo Berry, Attorney, Montana Mining Association

00:12:27 Richard Oppen, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

00:15:02 Ken Weber, Jefferson County Commissioner

[EXHIBIT\(nah33a03\)](#)

00:19:49 Ed Bartlett, Attorney, Golden Sunlight Mine

00:23:03 Fess Foster, Geological Consultant, Whitehall, Montana

00:25:59 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)

[EXHIBIT\(nah33a04\)](#)

00:27:35 Jason Miller, Montana State AFL-CIO

00:28:03 Haley Beaudry, Mining Engineer

Opponents' Testimony:

00:28:54 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:36:21 Rep. Erickson

00:37:07 Mr. Berry

00:41:22 Warren McCullough, DEQ

00:42:51 Rep. Erickson

00:43:05 Mr. Berry

00:46:37 Rep. Heinert

00:49:48 Mr. Berry

00:50:17 Rep. Ankney

00:52:20 Mr. Barber

00:52:38 Rep. Cohenour

00:53:26 Mr. McCullough

00:54:41 Rep. Cohenour

00:55:34 Mr. McCullough

00:55:44 Rep. Cohenour

00:56:11 Mr. Berry

00:56:21 Rep. Mendenhall

00:58:10 Mr. Barber

Closing by Sponsor:

00:58:49 Rep. McNutt

HEARING ON HB 401

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:01:51 Rep. Dan Villa (D), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 401, Revise laws relating to water and wastewater treatment plant operators.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:03:36 Jenny Chambers, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

EXHIBIT (nah33a05)

01:05:48 Starr Sullivan, Missoula, Montana

01:06:10 Stephen Rud

01:07:16 Lee Wolfe

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:08:27 Rep. Heinert

01:08:50 Rep. Villa

01:09:03 Ms. Chambers

01:09:37 Rep. Heinert

01:09:42 Ms. Chambers

01:09:58 Rep. Ross

01:10:16 Ms. Chambers

01:10:48 Rep. Erickson

01:11:07 Rep. Villa

01:11:18 Rep. Lambert

01:11:32 Rep. Villa

01:11:53 Rep. McNutt

01:12:08 Rep. Villa

01:12:34 Ms. Chambers

01:13:16 Rep. McNutt

01:13:25 Rep. Villa

01:13:50 Rep. Ankney

01:14:12 Ms. Chambers

01:14:44 Rep. Mendenhall

01:15:15 Ms. Chambers
01:16:28 Rep. Hendrick
01:16:56 Ms. Chambers

Closing by Sponsor:

01:19:25 Rep. Villa
01:20:06 Break

HEARING ON HJ 15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:17:00 Rep. Kevin Furey (D), HD 91, opened the hearing on HJ
15, Allow conservancy districts to operate water banks.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:20:13 Mike McLane
[EXHIBIT \(nah33a06\)](#)
02:24:50 Rich Moy, Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation (DNRC)
02:25:28 Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited
02:25:51 John Bloomquist, Montana Stockgrowers' Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:27:39 Rep. Barrett
02:28:49 Mr. McLane

Closing by Sponsor:

02:31:25 Rep. Furey

HEARING ON HJ 31

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:33:24 Rep. George Everett (R), HD 5, opened the hearing on HJ
31, Urge opposition to Rockies Prosperity Act.
[EXHIBIT \(nah33a07\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

02:38:56 Michael Garrity, Alliance for the Wild Rockies

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:41:28 Rep. Van Dyk
02:42:11 Rep. Everett
02:43:00 Rep. Hendrick
02:47:38 Mr. Garrity
02:48:42 Rep. Cohenour
02:49:30 Mr. Garrity
02:51:06 Rep. Erickson
02:51:38 Mr. Garrity
02:52:21 Rep. Erickson
02:52:52 Rep. Everett
02:55:32 Rep. Erickson
02:55:33 Rep. Everett
02:55:53 Rep. Heinert
02:57:23 Mr. Garrity
02:58:01 Rep. Barrett
03:00:51 Mr. Garrity
03:02:22 Rep. Mendenhall
03:03:57 Mr. Garrity
03:04:47 Rep. Cohenour
03:05:02 Mr. Garrity

Closing by Sponsor:

03:05:15 Rep. Everett

ADJOURNMENT

03:06:33 Adjournment: 6:50 P.M.

REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah33aad.pdf](#))